

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. In a computer system having a computer memory and an object-
2 oriented environment, a method for providing a microfluidic component of a microfluidic
3 circuit, said method comprising:

4 invoking a first symbol layer object having a first child channel object;
5 invoking a second symbol layer object having a second child object; and
6 forming a microfluidic component symbol representing said microfluidic
7 component, said microfluidic component symbol comprising said first child channel object
8 and said second child channel object.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said first child channel object is a fluid
2 channel object and said second child channel object is a control channel object.

3 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said first child channel object has a
4 child port object.

5 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said child port object is used to
6 connect to another port object of another channel object.

7 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising placing said microfluidic
8 component symbol on a drawing area, wherein said first symbol layer is matched up with a
9 primary layer.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said first child channel object is linked
2 to a channel layer via an associated primary layer.

3 7. In a computer system having a computer memory and an object-
4 oriented environment, a method for physically laying out a microfluidic circuit, having a
5 plurality of microfluidic components, said method comprising:

6 placing a first symbol object representing a microfluidic component of said
7 plurality of microfluidic components, said first symbol object comprising a fluid channel
8 object representing a first fluid channel of said microfluidic component;

9 placing a connecting fluid channel object on a channel layer, said connecting
fluid channel object representing a second fluid channel used to connect two microfluidic
components of said plurality of microfluidic components; and

10 linking said fluid channel object to said connecting fluid channel object,
11 wherein said linking representing connecting said first fluid channel to said second fluid
12 channel.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said linking further comprises linking a
2 component port object of said fluid channel object to a channel port object of said connecting
3 fluid channel object.

1 9. An object- oriented system for laying out a microfluidic circuit having
2 a plurality of microfluidic components, said system comprising:

3 a symbol object for modeling a microfluidic component of said plurality of
4 microfluidic components, said symbol object comprising a symbol layer object;

5 a first channel object as a part of said symbol layer object;

6 a primary layer object for modeling a layer of said microfluidic circuit, said
7 primary layer object comprising a channel layer object;

8 a second channel object as a part of said channel layer object; and

9 a connecting routine linking said first channel object to said second channel
10 object.

11 10. A object-oriented system for laying out a microfluidic circuit having a
12 plurality of microfluidic components, on a template having a plurality of layers, said system
13 comprising:

14 a model object representing said laid out microfluidic circuit on said template;

15 a symbol object associated with a microfluidic component of said plurality of
16 microfluidic components said symbol object being part of said model object;

1 a plurality of symbol layer objects associated with a fluid layer and a control
2 layer of said microfluidic component, said plurality of symbol layer objects being part of said
3 symbol object;

4 a component fluid channel object associated with said fluid layer of said
5 microfluidic component, said component fluid channel object being part of a symbol layer
6 object of said plurality of symbol layer objects;

7 a layer object associated with a fluid layer of said plurality of layers, said layer
8 object being part of said model object;

9 a fluid channel object associated with a fluid channel on said fluid layer of
10 said plurality of layers, said fluid channel object being part of said layer object; and

17 a linking model for linking said component fluid channel object with said fluid
18 channel object, when said microfluidic component is connected to said fluid channel on said
19 template.

1 11. An object- oriented system stored in a computer readable memory,
2 comprising:
3 a model class object for providing a container for objects on a drawing area,
4 said model class object owning a symbol object and a primary layer object;
5 said symbol object for providing a representation of a microfluidic component;
6 and
7 said primary layer object for providing a layer for said drawing area.

1 12. The object- oriented system of claim 11 wherein said model class
2 object further owns a I/O port object for providing access to channels on said template.

3 13. The object- oriented system of claim 11 further comprising:
4 said symbol object owning a symbol layer object;
5 said symbol layer object for providing a layer for said microfluidic
6 component, said symbol layer object owning a first child channel object; and
7 said first child channel object for providing a channel for forming microfluidic
component, said first child channel object owning a component port object.

1 14. The object- oriented system of claim 13 further comprising:
2 said primary layer owning a child channel layer object;
3 said channel layer object for providing an intermediate layer for a connecting
4 channel on said drawing area, said channel layer object owning a second channel object; and
5 said second channel object owning a channel port, said channel port object
6 linked to said component port object for providing a connection between said channel of said
7 microfluidic component and said connecting channel.